

WISHA ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WAC)
MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2005
L&I Headquarters Building, Room S117

Members Present: Randy Loomans, Washington State Labor Council; Michael Roozen, Washington Bulb Company; Sharon Ness, United Staff Nurses Local 141; Claude Golden, The Boeing Company; Tom Egan, Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals; Ed Wood, Jr., Communication Workers of America Local 7818; Tim Gottberg, GLY Construction; Bob Abbott, WA and Northern Idaho District Council of Laborers and Steve Cant, Department of Labor & Industries

Member Not Present: Glen Foresman, Top Food and Drug

Guests: Nikki Cross, Washington Self-Insured Association; Mark Johnson, Washington Retail Association; Janice Camp, University of Washington; Amy Evans, Washington State House of Representatives; Nancy Dicus, TOC Management Services; John Carlson and Brendan Clark, Associated General Contractors; Carolyn Logue, National Federation of Independent Business; Donovan Quebedeaux and Amy Brackenbury, Building Industry Association of Washington; Gregory Chryst, OSHA Region X and John Dziedzic, Senate Labor, Commerce, R&D Committee

Staff Present: Anne Soiza, Ken Mettler, Gail Hughes, Mel James, Janet Kenney and Dave Bonauto

Recorder: Gerald Franks

Opening Remarks – Steve Cant

- Steve is now the acting assistant director for WISHA Services as Michael Wood recently became the administrator for the Oregon OSHA program.
- The Governor's Industrial Safety and Health Conference will be held in Tacoma on September 28th & 29th.
- L&I is conducting an assessment of our field operations to determine the extent to which the current structure allows for the most efficient and effective delivery of the department's services. A report to the director will be completed late October/November.
- The Prevention Initiative is intended to improve coordination between various programs within L&I for employers with high claim rates (see below).
- The department is developing a job description for a position that will focus on improving the delivery of L&I services to small businesses.
- An ergonomist from the Policy and Technical Services group has been transferred to the Training and Outreach group to provide ergonomic-related education and outreach to employers.
- Three cholinesterase testing issues came up as the result of recent meetings with legislative staff and stakeholders:
 - The manner in which employees are notified about their tests.
 - Moving away from using the DOH lab and recognizing a non-government laboratory to take over the duties of blood sample testing within the next year.

- Tracking how many employees decline to take the test.
- Bob Abbott of the Washington and Idaho District Council of Laborers is the newest member of the committee. He replaces Larry Bindner.

SHARP Update – Dave Bonauto

Dave provided a brief overview of the following SHARP activities and reports (also available on the SHARP website located at www.lni.wa.gov/safety/research):

- A fatality investigation report titled “Utility construction supervisor killed when struck by a pickup truck at a work zone in Washington State.”
- A FACE (Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation) Fatal Facts newsletter that contained information about silos and silo gas hazards.
- Three fatality narratives on: an electrocuted electrician, an ironworker who fell through a roof opening and a carpenter who fell from the top plate of a house wall.
- A pamphlet titled “Making Prevention Count – knowing where high cost workers’ compensation claims occur.”
- A continuing medical education focus document on diagnosing work-related asthma that will be available to the public within the next month.

Dave also passed around a copy of the Association of Wall and Ceiling Industry journal that featured an article about Stilt injuries in construction that used information provided by SHARP.

SHARP recently submitted an application for a four-year renewal of the FACE program grant. Dave mentioned that there is more competition from other states for grant money this year.

Prevention Initiative and Clear Rule Writing Update – Gail Hughes

Prevention Initiative:

This initiative was launched in November 2004 to offer employers a package of prevention services geared to their needs based on their particular workplace and injury history. This approach allows L&I to provide consultative services based on the employer needs rather than the services the person they initially contacted could provide.

The L&I person assigned to initially visit the employer conducts a comprehensive assessment of an employer’s needs and offers an appropriate package of services and coordinates these services with the appropriate technical staff.

Gail said the percent of employers receiving more than one service from L&I has been increasing. Once an assessment has been completed and services provided, a follow-up is done within six months to a year. Our long-term goal is to see an employer’s experience rating decrease. A Prevention internet site will be launched soon.

Plain Language Initiative Update:

WISHA Services has completed rewriting 28 rules since 1999. The Construction rules (296-155 WAC) have been added with the rewrite of the general industry rules and will eventually not

exist in its present form. Each general industry rule that has a counterpart in the construction rule is being rewritten as one rule for both. There are currently 18 rules being rewritten (Asbestos, Portable Ladders, Cranes, etc). We are striving to make each rule update consistent with current building codes. WISHA publishes rule CD updates every six months.

Gail said that the Innovations Task Force, which provides input on rule rewrite projects, meets approximately six times a year. *Gerald will send a current Innovations Task Force roster to the WAC interested parties contact list per Steve's request.*

AGC Ergonomics Program – John Carlson

John Carlson of Associated General Contractors (AGC) showed a power point slideshow on AGC's soft tissue injury prevention program. John said that when the state ergo rule was being developed, the AGC decided to be proactive and create their own program to identify and reduce hazards within the construction industry and it's developed into a very productive tool. There was also a lot of employee involvement in the development of the program which was put together by Kate Stewart and Steve Davis. Other features of the AGC program:

- Employee awareness training is available in two on-the-job 15-minute toolboxes.
- Visuals/risk factors are used to fit the work with the worker.
- There are various modules for different areas of the body (lower/upper extremities).
- The tools are easy to use and have been well received on the worksite.
- There were many tasks analyzed to ensure there was consistency in the tools and trainers.
- There are various "tip sheets" available for different job duties.
- 50-60 contractors were involved in the development of the program.
- AGC wants to lead rather than follow in the area of soft tissue injury prevention and encourages early intervention

John said that their materials have developed into a very productive injury prevention tool for the construction industry and the AGC is willing to work with other organizations/employers to develop similar injury-prevention programs. The current soft tissue injury prevention program materials are also available to others upon request.

John also mentioned that the AGC is in the early stages of creating a hearing conservation program. Tim Gottberg mentioned that his company has had a noticeable reduction in injuries since they started using this program three years ago.

GMAP/WISHA Overview – Steve Cant

With Executive Order 02-05, Governor Gregoire created Government Management, Accountability, and Performance (GMAP) for Washington State. GMAP is a performance-based approach to improve government management based on successful models in other cities and state governments:

- They will help agencies use accurate, timely data to analyze costs and operations, evaluate performance and improve service delivery.
- They will link employee contributions to agency goals.
- They will help agencies to report on performance to the public in the clear, measurable terms that citizens need to judge the effectiveness of government.

Steve gave a power point slide show with an overview of various WISHA services, initiatives, WISHA/OSHA relationship and our strategic performance goals that will be tracked and reported by the agency. WISHA's performance goals set specific targets for:

- Reductions in fatalities, injuries and illnesses and hazards for Washington workers.
- Achieving program excellence through education, consultation, employer assistance and professional service delivery.
- Maximizing WISHA's effectiveness and efficiency by strengthening our capabilities and infrastructure.

We also provided the committee a copy of our current five-year strategic management plan and the 2006 WISHA performance plan we provide to OSHA.

Next Meeting – All

The next meeting of the WISHA Advisory Committee is scheduled for November 9, 2005, in the L&I headquarters building, from 9:00 a.m. to noon in S126.

Tentative agenda items for November:

- SHARP Update
- 2006 Legislation Update
- Others TBD

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Future meetings:

TBD